

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 06931 070915Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /037 W
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R 070818Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2739

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SEDU, KS
SUBJ: KOREAN DOMESTIC SCANDAL: "TEACHER-GATE"

1. SUMMARY. SCANDAL INVOLVING BRIBERY AND UNLAWFUL LICENSING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE MEDIA PLAY AND PUBLIC CONCERN IN KOREA. ALTHOUGH EXTENT OF SCANDAL SO FAR APPEARS LIMITED TO PROVINCIAL SCHOOL BOARD OFFICIAL AND HIS ACCOMPLICES, WITH NO HIGH LEVEL BUREAUCRATIC INVOLVEMENT, OPPOSITION NDP IS CLEARLY OUT TO MAKE AS MANY POLITICAL POINTS AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 27, NEW KOREAN DOMESTIC SCANDAL BROKE WITH REVELATION THAT HO NO-YOL, PART-TIME EMPLOYEE OF KYONGSANG PUKTO BOARD OF EDUCATION, HAD ISSUED TEACHING LICENSES TO UNQUALIFIED PERSONS, AND IN MANY CASES RECEIVED BRIBES RANGING FROM \$600 TO \$1,400. AS OF AUGUST 4, NUMBER OF THOSE HOLDING SUSPECT TEACHING LICENSES TOTALLED 339, 67 OF WHICH WERE ALLEGEDLY OBTAINED THROUGH BRIBERY. PROSECUTION DISCLOSED THAT HO PLACED OFFICIAL SEAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION ON LICENSES FOR MANY CLEARLY UNQUALIFIED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHING. IN ONE CASE, HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER WAS FOUND TO BE FORMER SEOUL CABARET PIANIST WITH ONLY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. HO AND 20 OTHERS FROM TAEJU AREA HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT SCOPE OF HO'S ACTIVITY AND FACT
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IT DATES BACK EIGHT YEARS HAS RAISED QUESTIONS OF LARGER INVOLVEMENT. CHARGES OF COVERUP BY PROVINCIAL EDUCATION BOARD HAVE ALSO BEEN RAISED, SINCE BOARD REPORTEDLY KNEW OF HO'S ACTIVITIES SINCE OCTOBER 1977.

3. NDP TRYING TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY OUT OF AFFAIR
BY DISPATCHING ITS OWN INVESTIGATIVE TEAM TO TAEJU;

DEMANDING RESIGNATION OF EDUCATION MINISTER; AND CALLING
FOR SPECIAL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
COMMITTEE (NO RESPONSE FROM RULING PARTY).

4. COMMENT: COMING ON HEELS OF APARTMENT SCANDAL AND
TEMPEST OVER FORMER DRP ASSEMBLYMAN SONG NAK-HYUN (SEPTEL),
"TEACHER-GATE" AFFAIR IS ONE MORE ISSUE FOR NDP TO USE
IN UPCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.
GLEYSTEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, TEACHERS, LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PGOV, SEDU, KS
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